



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY ON ROBBERY AND GUN CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Michael Hussey**, 38, Kansas City, Kansas, entered a guilty plea today before U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to one count of robbery of a business engaged in interstate commerce; one count of brandishing a revolver during the robbery; and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Melgren said that Hussey admitted at his plea that on December 26, 2003, he entered the Taco John's restaurant, Lawrence, Kansas, leaped over the counter brandishing a revolver, and stole approximately \$855 from the restaurant. A customer at the drive-through window saw what was happening and called police on her cell phone. The police arrived as Hussey was running from the restaurant. Hussey was pursued and captured and officers found the handgun and \$855 in cash on his person. Hussey further admitted that he was previously convicted of a felony, robbery, in 1992 in Jackson County, Missouri.

Hussey faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison, without parole, for robbery of a business engaged in interstate commerce; a minimum of seven years and a maximum of life for brandishing a revolver during the robbery; and a maximum of ten years for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Sentencing is set for July 12, 2004.

Co-defendant **George Cannon**, 45, Kansas City, Kansas, is charged with one count of robbery of the Taco John's restaurant, a business engaged in interstate commerce; one count of brandishing a revolver during the robbery; and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. If convicted, Cannon faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison, without parole, for robbery of a business engaged in interstate commerce; a minimum of seven years and a maximum of life for brandishing a revolver during the robbery; and a maximum of ten years for being a felon in possession of a firearm. A jury trial is scheduled for May 3, 2004, at 1:30 p.m.

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Melgren commended the excellent work of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Lawrence Police Department in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Leon Patton in this prosecution.